(b) if so, whether the demand of gas and oil in the country has been increasing continuously;

(c) if so, the details of the alternative strategies to be adopted to curtail consumption of oil and gas; and

(d) whether Government propose to seek help from the developed countries in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) An Energy Policy Committee has been set up in the Planning Commission to formulate an Energy Policy for the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), set up under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. undertakes schemes and programmes that help avoiding wasteful consumption and for promotion of conservation of petroleum products. These include awareness compaigns, training programmes in the transport sector, introduction of efficient boilers, furnaces and other oil operated equipments in the industrial sector, rectification of existing pumps to make them more energy efficient in the agriculture sector, development and promotion of fuel efficient equipments and appliances like kerosene and LPG stove in the household sector etc.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of Government.

Allocation of petrol pumps to permanently disabled soldiers

3961. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the families of Kargil Martyrs have already been allotted with petrol pumps/gas agency;

(b) whether Government will extend such facilities to the permanently disabled soldiers of Operation Vijay; and

(c) if so, the time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Allotments of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships under the Special Scheme for only widows/next of kin of Defence Personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil are at present made on the recommendations of the Ministry of Defence and after feasibilities studies of the locations are made by the Oil Companies. The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence has so far recommended the names of 455 persons for allotment under this Scheme, of which the case of one person has been kept in abeyance on the advice of the DGR. Allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to 429 persons has been approved by the Government so far.

News-item captioned, "Scientist sulks under Government's apathy"

3962. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 30th May, 2001 with the caption, "Scientist sulks under Government's apathy";

(b) if so, what prevented Government to take up his case and issue patent for his invention since the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad has given the scientist's product the certificate of better fuel efficiency; and

(c) whether Government's apathy towards his invention discourage motivation for upcoming scientists and technicians ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) The test conducted by the Indian Institute of Petroleum indicated that there was no improvement in thermal efficiency with the use of the device and the device did not show any saving of LPG. The Expert Group comprising members from Deptt, of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Petroleum. Dehradun. LPG Equipment Research Centre, Bangalore, National Research and Development